CHAPTER 213	
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**TAXATION** 

SENATE BILL 14-073

BY SENATOR(S) Jahn, Grantham, Hodge, Tochtrop, Aguilar, Guzman, Heath, Johnston, Jones, Kerr, King, Newell, Nicholson, Rivera, Roberts, Schwartz, Todd, Ulibarri, Zenzinger, Carroll; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Gerou, Fischer, Hamner, Kraft-Tharp, Labuda, Moreno, Pettersen, Rosenthal, Schafer, Young.

## AN ACT

CONCERNING THE STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATED LAND IN THE STATE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AND REDUCING APPROPRIATIONS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

- **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact, with amendments**, 39-22-526 as follows:
- **39-22-526.** Credit for environmental remediation of contaminated land definition repeal. (1) (a) For income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2014, but prior to January 1, 2023, there is allowed a credit against the income taxes imposed by this article for any approved environmental remediation of contaminated property to any taxpayer who meets the following requirements:
- (I) The property where the environmental remediation takes place must be located within the state; and
- (II) The Taxpayer seeking the credit must possess a certificate issued by the department of public health and environment pursuant to section 25-16-306 (5) (b), C.R.S., and subsection (3) of this section.
- (b) The Tax credit allowed in this section must not exceed forty percent of the first seven hundred fifty thousand dollars expended for the approved remediation, and must not exceed thirty percent of the next seven hundred fifty thousand dollars expended for the approved remediation. A tax credit is not allowed for expenditures exceeding one

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ON ANY INDIVIDUAL PROJECT.

- (c) A credit must be first applied to taxes due or transferred to another taxpayer pursuant to paragraph (d) of this subsection (1) no later than the tax year following the tax year in which the certification is provided to the department pursuant to section 25-16-306(5) (a), C.R.S. If the credit allowed by this section exceeds the tax otherwise due, the excess credit may be carried forward and claimed on the earliest possible subsequent tax return for a period not to exceed five years.
- (d) A Taxpayer may transfer all or a portion of a tax credit granted pursuant to this subsection (1) to another taxpayer for such other taxpayer, as transferee, to apply as a credit against the taxes imposed by this article subject to the following limitations:
- (I) THE TAXPAYER MAY ONLY TRANSFER A PORTION OF THE TAX CREDIT THAT THE TAXPAYER HAS NEITHER APPLIED AGAINST THE INCOME TAXES IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE NOR USED TO OBTAIN A REFUND;
- (II) The Taxpayer may transfer a propated portion of the Tax credit to more than one transferee;
- (III) For any tax year in which a tax credit is transferred pursuant to this paragraph (d), both the taxpayer and the transferee shall file written statements with their income tax returns specifying the amount of the tax credit transferred. A transferee may only claim a credit transferred pursuant to this paragraph (d) if the taxpayer's written statement verifies the amount of the tax credit claimed by the transferree.
- (IV) A Transferor may transfer a credit pursuant to this paragraph (d) regardless of whether the transferor receives value in exchange for the transfer. The transferee may use the credit to pay, in whole or in part, the income tax obligation imposed on the transferee under this article. The transferee's use of a tax credit from a transferor under this section to pay taxes owed is not deemed a reduction in the amount of income taxes imposed by this article on the transferee.
- (V) THE TRANSFEREE SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE A FORM APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHING THAT THE TAXPAYER HAS SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. THE TRANSFEREE SHALL ALSO FILE A COPY OF THE FORM WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT.
- (VI) THE TRANSFER OF A TAX CREDIT MUST OCCUR PRIOR TO THE DUE DATE IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE, NOT INCLUDING ANY EXTENSIONS, FOR FILING THE TRANSFEREE'S INCOME TAX RETURN;
- (VII) A Tax credit held by an individual either directly or as a result of a donation by a pass-through entity, but not a tax credit held by a transferee unless used by the transferee's estate for taxes owed by the estate, survives the death of the individual and may be claimed or

TRANSFERRED BY THE DECEDENT'S ESTATE;

- (VIII) The transferor of a tax credit transferred pursuant to this paragraph (d) is the tax matters representative in all matters with respect to the credit. The tax matters representative is responsible for representing and binding the transferees with respect to all issues affecting the credit, including the amounts expended for the approved remediation, the certificate issued by the department of public health and environment, notifications and correspondence from and with the department of revenue, audit examinations, assessments or refunds, settlement agreements, and the statute of limitations. The transferee is subject to the same statute of limitations with respect to the credit as the transferor of the credit.
- (IX) Final resolution of disputes regarding the Tax credit between the department of revenue and the Tax matters representative, including final determinations, compromises, payment of additional taxes or refunds due, and administrative and judicial decisions, is binding on transferees.
- (X) Any person who has claimed a credit or who may be eligible to claim a tax credit either as a taxpayer or a transferee may petition the department of revenue to change the tax matters representative's designation. The executive director shall promulgate rules specifying the procedures for a change to the tax matters representative's designation when the executive director determines that the tax matters representative is unavailable or unwilling to act as the tax matters representative. If the department grants the petition, the new tax matters representative shall serve in that capacity on and after the date the department grants the petition.
- (2) (a) For income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2014, but prior to January 1, 2023, there is allowed to any qualified entity a transferable expense amount for expenses incurred by the qualified entity in performing approved environmental remediation. The transferable expense amount may only be transferred to a taxpayer to be claimed by the taxpayer as a credit pursuant to the provisions of this subsection (2). The transferrable expense amount is allowed to any qualified entity that meets the following requirements:
- (I) The property where the environmental remediation takes place must be located within the state; and
- (II) The department of public health and environment must have issued a certificate for the property pursuant to section 25-16-306(5)(b), C.R.S., and subsection (3) of this section.
- (b) The transferable expense amount allowed in this section must not exceed forty percent of the first seven hundred fifty thousand dollars expended by the qualified entity for the approved remediation, and must not exceed thirty percent of the next seven hundred fifty thousand

DOLLARS EXPENDED BY THE QUALIFIED ENTITY FOR THE APPROVED REMEDIATION. A TRANSFERABLE EXPENSE AMOUNT IS NOT ALLOWED FOR EXPENDITURES EXCEEDING ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ON ANY INDIVIDUAL PROJECT.

- (c) A QUALIFIED ENTITY MAY TRANSFER ALL OR A PORTION OF A TRANSFERABLE EXPENSE AMOUNT ALLOWED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) TO A TAXPAYER FOR SUCH TAXPAYER, AS TRANSFEREE, TO APPLY AS A CREDIT AGAINST THE TAXES IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING LIMITATIONS:
- (I) The qualified entity may transfer a prorated portion of the transferable expense amount to more than one transferee;
- (II) FOR ANY TAX YEAR IN WHICH A TRANSFERABLE EXPENSE AMOUNT IS TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2), THE QUALIFIED ENTITY SHALL FILE A WRITTEN STATEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ON A FORM APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND THE TRANSFEREE SHALL FILE A WRITTEN STATEMENT WITH THE TRANSFEREE'S INCOME TAX RETURN SPECIFYING THE AMOUNT TRANSFERRED TO THE TRANSFEREE TO BE CLAIMED AS A CREDIT. A TRANSFEREE MAY ONLY CLAIM A CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) IF THE QUALIFIED ENTITY'S WRITTEN STATEMENT VERIFIES THE AMOUNT OF THE TAX CREDIT CLAIMED BY THE TRANSFEREE.
- (III) A QUALIFIED ENTITY MAY TRANSFER A TRANSFERABLE EXPENSE AMOUNT TO BE CLAIMED AS A CREDIT BY A TRANSFEREE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE QUALIFIED ENTITY RECEIVES VALUE IN EXCHANGE FOR THE TRANSFER. THE TRANSFEREE MAY USE THE CREDIT TO PAY, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, THE INCOME TAX OBLIGATION IMPOSED ON THE TRANSFEREE UNDER THIS ARTICLE. THE TRANSFEREE'S USE OF A TAX CREDIT FROM A QUALIFIED ENTITY UNDER THIS SECTION TO PAY TAXES OWED IS NOT DEEMED A REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF INCOME TAXES IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE ON THE TRANSFEREE.
- (IV) THE TRANSFEREE SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE A FORM APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHING THAT THE TRANSFEREE HAS SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. THE TRANSFEREE SHALL ALSO FILE A COPY OF THE FORM WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT.
- (V) THE TRANSFER OF A TRANSFERABLE EXPENSE AMOUNT TO A TRANSFEREE MUST OCCUR PRIOR TO THE DUE DATE IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE, NOT INCLUDING ANY EXTENSIONS, FOR FILING THE TRANSFEREE'S INCOME TAX RETURN;
- (VI) A TAX CREDIT HELD BY A TRANSFEREE'S ESTATE FOR TAXES OWED BY THE ESTATE, SURVIVES THE DEATH OF THE TRANSFEREE AND MAY BE CLAIMED OR TRANSFERRED BY THE DECEDENT'S ESTATE;
- (VII) THE QUALIFIED ENTITY THAT TRANSFERS A TRANSFERABLE EXPENSE AMOUNT TO BE CLAIMED AS A CREDIT BY A TRANSFEREE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS THE TAX MATTERS REPRESENTATIVE IN ALL MATTERS WITH RESPECT TO THE CREDIT. THE TAX MATTERS REPRESENTATIVE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REPRESENTING AND BINDING THE TRANSFEREES WITH RESPECT TO ALL ISSUES AFFECTING THE CREDIT, INCLUDING THE AMOUNTS EXPENDED FOR THE APPROVED

REMEDIATION, THE CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, NOTIFICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM AND WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AUDIT EXAMINATIONS, ASSESSMENTS OR REFUNDS, SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS, AND THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

- (VIII) FINAL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES REGARDING THE TAX CREDIT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND THE TAX MATTERS REPRESENTATIVE, INCLUDING FINAL DETERMINATIONS, COMPROMISES, PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL TAXES OR REFUNDS DUE, AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS, IS BINDING ON TRANSFEREES.
- (d) For purposes of this subsection (2), "Qualified entity" means a county, home rule county, city, town, home rule city, home rule city and county, or a private nonprofit entity that is exempt from the income taxes imposed by this article.
- (3) In addition to any other requirements of this section, a taxpayer SHALL SUBMIT A CLAIM FOR A CREDIT AND A QUALIFIED ENTITY SHALL SUBMIT A CLAIM FOR A TRANSFERRABLE EXPENSE AMOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE CERTIFICATES FOR THE CLAIMS RECEIVED IN THE ORDER SUBMITTED. AFTER CERTIFICATES HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR CREDITS AND TRANSFERRABLE EXPENSE AMOUNTS IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF THREE MILLION DOLLARS FOR ALL TAXPAYERS AND QUALIFIED ENTITIES COMBINED FOR THE 2014 CALENDAR YEARS AND THREE MILLION DOLLARS FOR EACH CALENDAR YEAR THEREAFTER, ANY CLAIMS THAT EXCEED THE AMOUNT ALLOWED FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR SHALL BE PLACED ON A WAIT LIST IN THE ORDER SUBMITTED AND A CERTIFICATE SHALL BE ISSUED FOR USE OF THE CREDIT OR TRANSFERRABLE EXPENSE AMOUNT IN THE NEXT YEAR FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT ISSUED CREDIT CERTIFICATES IN EXCESS OF THREE MILLION DOLLARS; EXCEPT THAT NO MORE THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN CLAIMS SHALL BE PLACED ON THE WAIT LIST FOR ANY GIVEN CALENDAR YEAR. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT ISSUE CERTIFICATES FOR ANY CALENDAR YEAR, INCLUDING CERTIFICATES PLACED ON A WAIT LIST FOR THAT YEAR, IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT THAT EXCEEDS THREE MILLION DOLLARS. NO CLAIM FOR A CREDIT OR A TRANSFERRABLE EXPENSE AMOUNT IS ALLOWED FOR ANY INCOME TAX YEAR COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2014, UNLESS A CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3).
  - (4) This section is repealed, effective December 31, 2029.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-16-306, **amend** (5) (b) as follows:

25-16-306. Approval of voluntary clean-up plan - time limits - contents of notice - conditions under which approval is void - expiration of approval. (5) (b) If the owner is applying for the tax credit provided in section 39-22-526 SECTION 39-22-526 (1), C.R.S., OR TO TRANSFER A TRANSFERABLE EXPENSE AMOUNT PURSUANT TO SECTION 39-22-526 (2), C.R.S., the owner shall submit to the department the certification along with an application pursuant to section 25-16-303. The certification shall, in addition to certifying that the plan has been fully implemented, disclose the costs of implementation and include supporting

documentation of those costs. The department shall then certify the accuracy of the costs and issue the property owner a certificate stating that the clean-up has occurred and the costs of such clean-up. The property owner may submit this certificate to the department of revenue to claim a tax credit OR TRANSFER A TRANSFERABLE EXPENSE AMOUNT under section 39-22-526 (2) SECTION 39-22-526, C.R.S.

**SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-21-113, **add** (17.7) as follows:

- **39-21-113.** Reports and returns rule repeal. (17.7) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the executive director may require that such detailed information regarding a claim for a credit for the approved environmental remediation of contaminated property pursuant to section 39-22-526 and any documentation submitted in support of the credit claimed be given to the department of public health and environment as the executive director determines is necessary in the performance of the department's functions relating to the credit. Notwithstanding the provisions of part 2 of article 72 of title 24, C.R.S., in order to protect the confidential financial information of a taxpayer, the executive director shall deny the right to inspect any information or documentation required in accordance with the provisions of this subsection (17.7).
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the executive director may provide such detailed information pertinent to a claim for a credit for the approved environmental remediation of contaminated property pursuant to section 39-22-526 to taxpayers, including transferees, with cases involving common or related issues of fact or law. Persons who receive taxpayer information pursuant to the provision of this subsection (17.7) shall be subject to the provisions of this section, including the limitations in subsection (4) of this section and the penalties in subsection (6) of this section regarding disclosure of taxpayer information.
- **SECTION 4. Appropriation adjustments to 2014 long bill.** (1) For the implementation of this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act to the controlled maintenance trust fund created in section 24-75-302.5 (2) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, is decreased by \$3,433,710.
- (2) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the general fund, not otherwise appropriated, to the department of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, the sum of \$58,710, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for CITA annual maintenance and support related to the implementation of this act.
- (3) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the hazardous substance response fund created in section 25-16-104.6, Colorado Revised Statutes, and pursuant to section 25-16-303 (4) (c), Colorado Revised Statutes, not otherwise appropriated, to the department of public health and environment, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, the sum of \$20,000, or so

much thereof as may be necessary, for allocation to the hazardous materials and waste management division for contaminated site cleanups personal services costs related to the implementation of this act.

**SECTION 5.** Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 6, 2014, if adjournment sine die is on May 7, 2014); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 15, 2014